

HENRY REED & CO.,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

The Free List and the Newspapers.

Our citizens, and especially the journalistic gang, were edited by a highly virtuous article in the *Enquirer* of last Sunday, on the theatrical free-list. Perhaps it is hardly fair to hold papers responsible on week-days, for any spasm of virtue that may afflict their issues on Sunday, as it is sometimes thought necessary to cover the slight fracture caused in the Sabbath by issuing a paper on Sunday, by a sanctimonious mantle on that day. Thus, when our new Democratic cotemporary launched its Sunday issue, it had a very affecting leader on the blessed Sabbath, which was calculated to convince good people that its sole object in issuing a Sunday paper was to keep the Sabbath holy; although, according to the law given from Mount Sinai to the Jews, every one connected with the Sunday paper, from editors to news-boys, would have to be taken without the camp and stoned. We formed high hopes of a paper which started so devoutly, but the fit of grace only lasted through the first Sunday issue. Ever since that the Sunday reader has been fed nothing but partisan, political humbug.

So the *Enquirer's* virtue may have been only its Sunday suit, which is not to be worn on working-days, for it really thinks the dead-head system an evil, nothing is easier than to reform it altogether, in its own case. Why not show its faith by its works? Why not enforce its preaching by example? Is it because its preaching is on Sunday, and its practice on week-days? In case of acknowledged social and moral evils, they who preach reform are expected to show that their own skirts are clear. People do not justify their own immoralities because others will not reform. What would be thought of a man who preached against gambling, drunkenness or fornication, and who justified the practice of them in his own case, because all would not simultaneously reform? The *Enquirer* is, at least, known on the free-list. If it is so objectionable to that paper represents, why endure this? We never heard that the free-list was compulsory!

Newspapers publish theatrical notices partly as matters of news, as they do notices of lectures and public meetings. Proprietors of theaters consider it for their interest to furnish editors and reporters with facilities for making these notices. That is the foundation of the free-list at theaters. If it is abused, it is not because abuses belong necessarily to the system, but because some people will abuse any thing. It is founded on the interest of the theatrical proprietors. The notices which they receive in the papers give their performances more publicity than all their advertising; and every editor who has not imposed on the free-list, knows that the obligation lies on the side of the proprietors of the theaters. If the proprietors do not think so, they have the right to cut off the free-list, and no newspaper man would have so little self-respect as to make that a cause of hostility. As to the amount which the free-list is used by editors and reporters, it is merely nominal. They are too busy to sit out a play, and their use of the free-list is usually to drop in for a few moments, a customer which is no infringement on the revenues of the theater, nor often on the seats, when they are needed.

Immortal custom has given public journals the right to criticize theatrical performances. It is, perhaps, the safest policy not to abandon any admitted rights of the press, reserving them for occasion, if it is preferred not to use them. It is said by the *Enquirer* that there is as much propriety in criticizing the goods and business of merchants, as the entertainment offered by theatrical managers. The same may be said of criticism of books, lectures, sermons and works of art. We are not disposed to curtail the privileges of the press quite so radically as that. There is in the nature of the case an impossibility in generally carrying out true criticism. Its standard is supposed to be the highest style of art, or, perhaps, an ideal perfection. Artists are exceedingly rare who come up to the highest model. One or two in each line suffices for generations. Consequently, most theatrical criticism must be the application of a high standard to a performance which, compared with it, is inferior, although it may be quite up to the popular taste, and fully as expensive as the manager ought to risk. Consequently, criticism, after the highest standard, can only be constant disparagement. This might be true criticism, but it would not be just to the proprietor, who has invested as much money as he ought to in a company, and who has one fully up to the popular taste, and who may deserve to succeed, even though he have not a company of Garricks, or Keans, or Siddonses. Therefore, we say that true criticism—that is, after the highest standard—is impracticable; so, also, it is neither useful nor desirable.

Practical criticism can only be comparative, and must necessarily be without rules or standard, and indefinite, depending on the judgment, taste and good nature of the critic, and graduated entirely by the world he lives in, instead of any foreign or ideal world; not assuming the stern aspect of the critic in "Hogarth's Laughing Audience," as if determined to show that he could never smile, but willing to be pleased when the audience are pleased, for they are really sovereign in this matter. The right of criticism is not the right to ruin the business of the manager, and the livelihood of actors, merely to show the independence of the critic or his high standard of art. The fact that the company are not Talmas and Recheis is no warrant for this. The manager plays to suit the popular taste. He has a right to do so, and the average popular taste is as high a standard as the critic has any right to set up.

There is in this city a newspaper habit of extravagant puffery, which does not belong to the free-list at all, but is a part of the job-printing business. The newspaper advertising of theaters is not extravagantly remunerative, and ordinary business notices of the program are a sufficient consideration for the free-list; but their job-printing is large, and this is it which has degraded the theatrical department of the press. The style committee is to be commended for its ordinary and all performance, without loss of judgment, the job regulation being to pile it on thick. This makes it impossible to do justice to the merit, and the oft-desired people habitually show the writers with the humbuggery of the newspapers. The system is as injurious to the managers as it is dishonest to the people, and degrading to the press.

press. Its effects may be seen in this city, where, under the regular practice of the most superlative puffery, the receipts of theaters have regularly declined, and in particular cases the excessive enlogia has marked the most rapid decline. It is the style for the most part, which has expanded the Cincinnati theatrical notices into a system of indiscriminate puffery. Managers suppose this vital to their success, and succumb to the threat implied by the demand, "The whole or none." And if it is divided between different offices, it begets a puffed competition. This is it that newspapers desire to suppress by combined action. The mere free-list any of them can drop at any time without inconvenience. To drop the free-list, and keep up the job puffery, would be the shallowest affectation of impartiality.

The Prince.
We understand that the programme for the reception of the Prince has been satisfactorily arranged. The Mayor has been his undivided attention to it, and has for a day or two shown symptoms of a sense of uncommon responsibility. The entire police force have been ordered to appear in clean shirts and in the best coats they can muster or borrow, at the depot, at half-past nine o'clock to-night, to receive the Prince and the people straight. The city will be left to the care of Providence for the night, as it is supposed that "such divinity doth hedge a Prince," that no harm will be allowed to befall a city in which he is lodged. The arrangement is said to include a ride through the principal streets, accompanied by the Mayor. The Committee of Reception at the Opera-house Ball was announced yesterday, and is such as to satisfy the most tender conscience on that head.

The responsible editor of the *Gazette* has decided that it is not amiss to rush to church on Sunday to see the Prince. It was the irresponsible editor that said it was. The responsible editor says he is going himself. This makes it all right though at first thought, to the unregenerate, rushing to church for night-school, would seem about as proper as opening a circus with prayer.

The Commercial feels the same for the people in this emergency, that Mr. Titmouse felt for himself when he was invited to dine with the Duke—an anxiety lest they will not be equal to the occasion. We hope they will be a due sense of the importance of the event, and that we shall be duly thankful.

A Hair-Trigger Union.
Most persons familiar with the Lakes under the ancient steamboat-runner regime, have heard of the polite runner who pursued the timid old lady to take passage on the steamboat Ohio, because she only warmed the water in her boilers a little, and avoided the dangers of hot water. It seems that in this emergency, that Mr. Titmouse felt for himself when he was invited to dine with the Duke—an anxiety lest they will not be equal to the occasion. We hope they will be a due sense of the importance of the event, and that we shall be duly thankful.

The Douglas Demonstration.
We think that those who saw the turnout last night must be satisfied that there are Douglas men hereabouts, and that they are alive and kicking. The other parties may have a great many voters delicately done up and luxuriously stowed away, but none, nor all of them, can make such a turnout in public. The torch-lights were numbered by thousands. Compared with it, the Breckinridge party was like patience on a monument. The Breckinridge organ throws a little cold water, by saying that it is assured that a levy was made on all the Bell lanterns in the city, and that they were carried by Bell men and boys. This may be so, but the prevailing features and accent were Hibernian, and if the American Spread Eagle, which but a few years ago was so fierce and proscriptive, has smoothed his ruffled plumage and affiliated with the Hibernian lamb, it is a gratifying evidence of the progress of civilization, and of the wonderful virtue of politics in making bedfellows.

A Special Wonder.
"Cleveland," of the *Enquirer*, is discovering some places of equine incubation so immense, that they must have belonged to the mate of the Trojan horse. The most brilliant one is a horrible rumor about the House Chairman of the Committee on Printing, that Mr. Gurley. The Superintendent of Public Printing, an executive officer, is required by the new printing law to purchase a Government printing-house. Both Wendell and Rives want to sell theirs, and it is expected that the Superintendent will find it necessary to buy one of them. Now comes the horrible mystery. Mr. Gurley, who has nothing to do with the purchase, is suspected of being favorable to both these printing-houses—pretty good evidence that he is in favor of neither. Most terrible "Cleveland!" Why make us shake in our shoes with these dreadful suppositions? Bring us some more frightful mysteries by special dispatch like the Thane, "We have suppressed all horrors!"

A Tragic Farce—Walker Again Reported Dead.
What was supposed to be a tragedy in Central America proves to be a farce. Gen. Walker was at first dead, and then alive, and is now dead again. To-morrow he will doubtless be as animated, and the next day twice as dead as ever. We wonder if Walker knows whether he is in Ruatan or Hadon. Was there ever such a man as Walker? Who cares?

Not a Wise Child.
The *Courier*, excepting to an article in the *Press*, ascribing Prince-worship to the reverence for rank which belongs to the Anglo-Saxon blood, says: "What if we should have inherited no Anglo-Saxon blood?" We beg the *Courier* to believe that we did not undertake to speak of its blood at all. We would not assume a knowledge of its ancestry, which is not given even to the wise children.

Religious Classification.
The prayer-meeting reporter of the *Tines* says that a prayer-meeting for the benefit of the West-end has been organized at the Church of the Atonement, to which "All denominations, from the Jew down to the Roman Catholic, are invited."

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH

NIGHT DISPATCHES.

The St. Louis Fair.
St. Louis, September 27.—The attendance at the Fair, yesterday, exceeded that of any other day. The Amphitheater was filled to overflowing, and the grounds crowded. St. Louis prize, No. 1, \$4000 for the best thoroughbred gelding, was awarded to the "Duke of Arden," owned by George M. Bedford, of Bourbon County, Ky. The same animal, in the earlier part of the day, was awarded a \$100 prize for the best bull over four years. Three hundred dollars for the second best bull, was awarded to "King Alfred," owned by J. N. Brown, of Lauganville, Ill. One hundred dollars for the third best, was awarded to "Daniel Boone," owned by J. C. McKinney, of Boone County, Mo. The arrivals last night and this morning have fully employed all accommodations, and the grounds are crowded and large crowds are awaiting conveyance. The sky is cloudy and a drizzling rain of one hour fell this morning, after which, the sun shone brilliantly. The Prince and suite, accompanied by the Duke of Arden, arrived at Hotel at half-past ten this morning for the Fair-grounds. The Prince, Mayor Filley, Lord Lyons and the Duke of Newcastle, were in an open carriage, drawn by four horses. The procession was viewed from windows along the route by a great many ladies and gentlemen. The Chamber of Commerce, by a resolution passed on Monday, transacts no business to-day. The stables and livery-houses are generally closed to give employees an opportunity to visit the fair.

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(By the Overland Mail.)

Additional from California.

PORT SMITH, ARK., September 27.—The Overland Mail, with San Francisco dates to the 10th inst., arrived here this morning. The Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph-line was to be opened to Los Angeles by the 20th inst. Senator Latham and family were to leave San Francisco on the 15th for Washington, by the overland route. A train in charge of a man named Smith, from Decatur, Illinois, was attacked by a party of Apache and Comanche Indians, at Douglas Pass, and seven horses belonging to the train were killed and others stolen. The day following the same party of Indians attacked another train and drove off 100 horses. Eight mules belonging to the Overland Mail Company were stolen by the Indians at Horsehead Crossing, Pecos River. Nothing new had transpired in relation to the Arizona mines.

St. Joseph, September 27.—The Pony Express, with California dates to the 15th inst., arrived here last night. The news is meager. San Francisco, September 15.—Hon. Rev. John Johnson addressed a large audience at the Grand Central Hall, at an anniversary fire department celebration. The feature of the speech was a strong appeal to the union sentiment.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

PIKE'S OPERA-HOUSE.

THE RECEPTION BALL.

In honor of the

PRINCE OF WALES

Will take place at the OPERA-HOUSE on

Saturday Evening, Sept. 29.

PRICES OF TICKETS.

Tickets admitting a lady and gentleman.....50.

Tickets for additional ladies.....25.

Tickets admitting a gentleman unaccompanied by ladies.....10.

Private Boxes \$10 extra.

TICKETS ARE NOW READY.

and will be disposed of at the office of the Opera-house, from 9 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M.; also at the office of the Opera-house.

No tickets will be sold at the door on the evening of the Ball. Private Boxes \$10 extra.

CONMITTEE OF RECEPTION.

R. M. Bishop, John Greenleaf, M. W. Loderick, David Gibson, J. L. Foster, J. C. Woodrow, John Bull, E. J. Harrison, John E. Stebbins, John W. Wilson, Thomas J. Smith, Judge D. K. Espe, George D. Smith, James McKechnan, Cyrus Garrett, Judge T. M. Key.

FLOOR MANAGERS.

Samuel J. Hale, Alexander E. B. B. Fletcher, John W. Wilson, Thomas J. Smith, Judge D. K. Espe, George D. Smith, James McKechnan, Cyrus Garrett, Judge T. M. Key.

WIDE-AWAKES, ATTENTION!

HO! FOR HAMILTON!

Grand Wide-awake Rally!

THERE WILL BE A GRAND

Wide-awake Procession and Republican

HAMILTON

On Saturday Evening, Sept. 29,

The Wide-awakes of the different Wards are requested to meet at their headquarters at 6 o'clock P. M., to go to the Hamilton and Dayton Depot. The train will leave at 8 o'clock, and return at an early hour.

Fare for the Round Trip, 60 cents.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

The Wide-awakes of Dayton, Mansfield, Oxford and other places will be present.

WIDE-AWAKES, ATTENTION!

GENERAL ORDER NO. 7.

WIDE-AWAKES' HEADQUARTERS,

Cincinnati, September 28.

The Wide-awakes of this city are hereby notified to attend the meeting in the Fifth Ward, on Friday, September 29, at 6 o'clock P. M.

The column will be in Eighth-st., the right flank on Vine-st., the left flank on Walnut-st., and march down Vine to Seventh, and then to the depot. It is of the utmost importance that the column should form promptly at 6 o'clock. The march will move at 6 o'clock, and will be preceded by the band of the 1st N. Y. M. U. S. Cavalry.

W. H. MURPHY, Commandant-General.

LADD, WEBSTER & CO.,

Invite attention to their

IMPROVED TIGHT-STITCH

Sewing Machines!

FIRST PREMIUMS RECEIVED

at the Centennial Exposition, New York, 1876.

At the Centennial Exposition, New York, 1876, the Ladd, Webster & Co. Sewing Machine was awarded the highest honor, the Grand Gold Medal.

This machine is also awarded

THE BEST FOR FAMILY USE.

By Commodore F. Engle, commander of the Navy at Philadelphia; Lieut. W. L. Maury, U. S. Navy; W. P. Williams, Chief Engineer, U. S. Navy; Dr. H. C. Cochran, Reg. Principal of New York Normal School; Dr. J. H. Allen, D. D., President of the Seminary, J. B. Allen, Civil Engineer, New York City, and by the best mechanics throughout the country.

We have just issued a new style at the low price of

FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS,

Which are the same in point of mechanism as our higher finished machines. Call and see them.

WESTERN OFFICE:

80 West Fourth-st., Cincinnati.

(ninth-fifth)

SCHOOL BOOKS!

Blank Books!

Paper! Envelopes!

STATIONERY!

THE ATTENTION OF PIR-

ates is directed to the fact that the

invited to the superior stock of

Books and Stationery!

Fresh from the Eastern markets, for sale at the lowest rates, by

C. A. PARTRIDGE,

107 Main-st.

Printing and Binding of all kinds done in the best manner, at short notice.

REOPENED.

GALT-HOUSE RESTAURANT

IN DAILY RECEIPT OF

PHILADELPHIA BAY SHELL OYSTERS.

From 5 A. M. to 10 P. M.

W. E. HARRIS, Jr., Proprietor.

\$55.

LADD WEBSTER & CO.'S

Sewing Machines!

NEW STYLE JUST ISSUED AT

FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS.

Call and see them at 80 West Fourth-st.

(ninth-fifth)

Important Notice.

MOORE'S \$30 DOUBLE LOCK

STITCH SEWING MACHINES, with

recent improvements, surpass all others, regard-

ing of price. Examine them before purchasing else-

where for a circular and catalogue of sewing

Agents wanted. H. O. BURMAN,

80 West Fourth-st., Cincinnati.

Sole Agent for the United States.

Read, all who wish to get Rich!

A BOOK CONTAINING IN-

formation on the most successful

methods of making money, and

how to secure a fortune in a

short time, will be sent to any

person who will send a receipt of

their correct address and 25 cents in

postage stamps. Address: J. P. DILLON, Agent,

Box 1,044 Cincinnati, Ohio.

OCTOBER ELECTION.

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE—

CHARLES D. FOOTE,

ROBERT MCUREW.

GEORGE O. THIELMAN,

PETER BELL.

Township Ticket.

FOR JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—

W. H. CLARK, N. MARCHANT, BENJ. TAYLOR, DAVID FISHER, WM. L. ALDRICH.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FALL AND WINTER STYLES

DELAND & GOSSAGE'S